

# PRESS RELEASE

## CITY OF WOODSTOCK

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## WOODSTOCK SPECIAL CENSUS TALLY HIGHER THAN INITIAL ESTIMATE

**Woodstock, IL December 21, 2016**—The City of Woodstock has been notified by the US Census Bureau that the final 2016 Special Census tally for the community is 25,528 residents. This is 171 more residents than the preliminary estimate reported following canvassing of the city's newer neighborhoods that took place in October.

In terms of fiscal benefits, each officially-counted resident results in additional reimbursement from the State of Illinois to Woodstock, to compensate for services already being provided to new residents by the City. Since the last Census in 2010, Woodstock is now confirmed to have 758 additional residents. This will result in the City receiving approximately \$115,000 in additional annual State-shared revenues that would not otherwise have been available to Woodstock. The official count still will need to be affirmed by the IL Secretary of State, expected around mid-January. Once this new population total is verified by the State, the City of Woodstock will gain Home Rule status.

Determining the exact count of a community's population is important for many reasons. It is used for manpower staffing to provide a consistent level of service to the residents, for transportation planning and parking needs, and for determining safety and security support. Accurate demographics are also vital to effective economic development efforts that attract businesses, maintain property values, and ensure a broad range of goods and services are available to residents.

A public City Council Workshop to review administrative options available to City leaders under Home Rule was held this week to begin analysis of beneficial changes available to Home Rule communities. Discussion included areas such as property maintenance standards, landlord training and regulation, business registration, video-gaming fees and licensing, and potential changes to the existing mix of municipal revenue options. Council asked City Administration to further review each item and list possible "pros and cons", along with providing examples of best practices and model ordinances from other Home Rule communities. In McHenry County, those communities include Crystal Lake, McHenry, Algonquin, Huntley and Lake in the Hills. As outlined in Woodstock's previously-enacted Home Rule Policy Ordinance, any municipal procedure being considered that will increase a tax that is not authorized for non-Home Rule units of government will require the City to schedule a public hearing on the issue.

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